

WHAT IS CLAIMED

1. A method of analyzing frames at a node of a network by an intrusion prevention system executed by the node, comprising:
- 5 reading the frame by the intrusion prevention system;  
comparing the frame with a machine-readable signature file;  
determining the frame has a frame signature that corresponds with the machine-readable signature file; and  
determining the machine-readable signature file has an associated squelch comprising a squelch threshold and a squelch period.
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2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising disabling execution of a directive of the machine-readable signature file if a frame counter exceeds the squelch threshold.
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3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising incrementing a frame counter upon determination that the frame signature corresponds with the machine-readable signature.
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4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising determining whether the squelch period has elapsed.
5. The method according to claim 4, further comprising initiating a new squelch period upon determining the squelch period has elapsed.
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6. The method according to claim 3, further comprising determining if the squelch threshold has been exceeded by the frame counter.
7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising executing a
- 30 directive of the machine-readable signature file upon determination that the squelch threshold has not been exceeded.

8. The method according to claim 1, further comprising suppressing execution of a directive of the signature file upon determination that the squelch threshold has been exceeded.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein suppressing execution of a directive of the signature file further comprises suppressing execution of report generation associated with the determination that the frame signature corresponds with the machine-readable signature file.

10. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a set of instructions to be executed, the set of instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a computer method of:

reading a frame;

comparing the frame with a machine-readable signature file;

determining the frame has a frame signature that corresponds with the machine-readable signature file; and

determining the machine-readable signature file has an associated squelch comprising a squelch threshold and a squelch period.

11. The computer readable medium according to claim 10, further comprising a set of instruction that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform a computer method of periodically incrementing a squelch period timer assigned to the machine-readable signature file.

12. The computer readable medium according to claim 11, further comprising a set of instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform a computer method of determining if the squelch period timer equals or exceed the squelch period.

13. The computer readable medium according to claim 12, further comprising a set of instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform a computer method of:

re-initiating the squelch period timer upon determination that the squelch period timer equals or exceeds the squelch period; and

incrementing a frame counter upon determining the frame signature corresponds with the machine-readable signature file.

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14. The computer readable medium according to claim 12, further comprising a set of instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform a computer method of determining if a frame counter exceeds the squelch threshold.

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15. The computer readable medium according to claim 14, further comprising a set of instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform a computer method of suppressing execution of a directive of the signature file upon determination that the squelch threshold has been exceeded by the frame counter.

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16. The computer readable medium according to claim 14, further comprising a set of instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform a computer method of executing a directive of the signature file upon determination that the squelch threshold has not been exceeded by the frame counter.

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17. The computer readable medium according to claim 15, wherein suppressing execution of a directive further comprises suppressing execution of a report generation associated with the determination that the frame signature corresponds with the machine-readable signature file.

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18. The computer readable medium according to claim 13, further comprising a set of instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform a computer method of determining if the squelch is enabled.

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19. The computer readable medium according to claim 13, further comprising a set of instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform a computer method of executing a directive of the signature file upon determining the squelch is disabled.